

BULLETIN OF  
THE NEW YORK ACADEMY  
OF MEDICINE



VOL. 46, No. 5

MAY 1970

---

SYMPOSIUM ON MEDICINE AND  
DIPLOMACY IN THE TROPICS

**Opening Statement\***

THE HONORABLE ANGIE BROOKS

President, The General Assembly of The United Nations

I am delighted to open officially this *Symposium on Medicine and Diplomacy in the Tropics*, for I have always felt that medicine, like music, is a universal language. The healing arts permit and promote international understanding—and international understanding is the way to international peace and security.

Medicine as a universal language knows no boundaries of race, religion, or sex but operates in the interest of all humanity. Dr. Kevin M. Cahill, who knows so well our needs in Africa, has called attention to medicine as an untapped resource in diplomacy. We in the tropics, the developing nations, have great need for medical assistance and we ask your help. Those with respect and love for the human family will not want the benefits of health restricted to a particular geographical area, and efforts such as yours today should assure a better future for all mankind.

On behalf of the United Nations I wish you all success.

---

\*Presented as part of a *Symposium on Medicine and Diplomacy in the Tropics* sponsored by The Tropical Disease Center, St. Clare's Hospital, New York, N. Y., and The Merck Company Foundation, Rahway, N. J., held at the Center, December 13, 1969.